

TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING

March 17, 2015

A regularly scheduled Town Board Workshop Meeting was held on Tuesday March 17, 2015 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Ulster Park, New York at 7:00 PM with the following people in attendance:

**Supervisor John Coutant
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet
Councilperson Wayne Freer - Absent
Councilperson Diane L. McCord
Councilperson Kyle Barnett**

Recording Administrator Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk

Supervisor John Coutant called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

BRUDERHOFF REQUEST

In the past the Bruderhoff has assisted the Town with the purchase of the water chestnut machine and lawn Mower. They have asked what the Town could use help with this year. The grant for the parking lot purchase from the Presentation Church of \$40,000 and \$10,000 - \$15,000 in addition for improvements has been dragging on for years. Supervisor Coutant will discuss the current standing of the purchase in process and if the Bruderhoff agrees to project, the Board will appreciate whatever they can do to help.

RESOLUTION – IRON MOUNTAIN

The Board members were given a draft copy of the resolution to authorize settlement with Iron Mountain which will be voted on at the March Town Board Meeting was given to the Board members.

RESOLUTION EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The Board Members were given a draft copy of the resolution to authorize the Supervisor to sign NYS Employees’ Retirement System standard work day and reporting. The resolution will be voted on at the March Town Board Meeting.

7:45PM – INTERVIEW – JANET BELUSHI-WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET AND SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR JOHN COUTANT TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTERVIEWING JANET BELUSHI FOR A VACANCY ON THE WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON DIANE MCCORD AND SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KYLE BARNETT TO EXIT THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

A resolution to appoint Janet Belushi will be presented at the March Town Board meeting.

ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS – ECONOMIC 1% - CPA SUGGESTION

Councilpersons Diane McCord and Gloria Van Vliet attended the Supervisor’s meeting and shared a copy of a letter that was written by Association President Carl Chipman to Assemblyman Cahill discussing the state mandated aggregate 1% tax levy decrease. Local governments have been working together to provide savings for the taxpayers as well as to improve services for the residents for many years. The towns have been cutting cost for years so there isn’t any fat left to trim. The letter indicates that it isn’t local government that is causing the cost to taxpayers, it is the need for the State to change the way education is funded. Carl Chipman said “It’s ridiculous to think that we are paying approximately \$30,000 per student to educate our children.” The Supervisors also fear many improvements are not being made by Towns for fear of going over the cap. Failing water and sewer systems, bridges and roads could be the future consequences caused by these financial pressures being placed on local government. The Board was in agreement that the letter was well written and suggested it also be sent to Senator George Amedore.

TOWN OF ESOPUS FROM CHURCH OF THE PRESENTATION

A copy of a proposed addendum to the Contract of Sale for the purchase of the parking lot from the Attorney Paul Keller was given to the Board for review.

HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY SERVICES

This topic was tabled until Councilperson Wayne Freer is able to present to the Board and discuss the program.

\$5,000 GRANT – CHANNEL 23

It has been determined the grant money which was given to the Town for the purpose of upgrading the public access channel 23, needs to be spent out of pocket and will be reimbursed from the grant funds. The Board questions the States promise of reimbursing through grant funds since there have been so many problems with the grant for the purchase of the Church

property for the parking lot. Supervisor Coutant will advise the Supervisors of the other Towns in the 23 broadcasting area of the approval to see how they would like to proceed. The hope would be each town would be able to have the camera equipment and be able to send a DVD over to our Town to be placed on Channel 23 for the viewers to watch.

SENATOR GEORGE AMEDORE- REQUEST

Senator George Amadore has an interest in economic development and would like to support the areas he represents. Supervisor Coutant has been talking to our solar expert Randolph Horner to discuss opportunities for economic development. The Board had a discussion of whether the Town would be able to use funds to hire a consultant on a per diem basis to identify areas that have potential and how to attract people to the area. Ideas on how can we can get industry in to the Town to help with the tax base also needs to be pursued. The board will continue to explore options and be in touch with Senator Amadore's office.

TRANSFER STATION – DIANE MCCORD

Councilperson Diane McCord gave a brief update on the RFP for the Transfer Station. It has been advertised in the Newspaper and Town Clerk Holly Netter placed it on the Esopus website. The transfer stations fee schedule needs to be reviewed and prices need to be increased.

ANIMALS FOR ADOPTION CONTRACT (ACCORD)

A draft copy of the agreement between the Town of Esopus and Animals for Adoption Kennel was given to the Board members. The authorization to sign the contract will be voted on at the March Town Board Meeting.

E. MAIN STREET HOUSE DEMOLITION

There seems to be an issue with the DEC and Labor Department rules and regulations regarding the demolition of a property potentially containing asbestos. Private contractors rules differ from the rules for Municipalities. Highway Superintendent Mike Cafaldo was unable to be reached to discuss this matter; topic will be discussed at a future meeting.

MISC:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON KYLE BARNETT TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:05PM TO DISCUSS THE RIVERVIEW CONDO TAX CERTUIERI, MOTION SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR JOHN COUTANT.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:12PM BY COUNCILPERSON DIANE MCCORD AND SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET.

NO DECISIONS WERE MADE.

Councilpersons Diane McCord and Gloria Van Vliet attended a forum on the Pipeline at the Esopus Library. They reported there was a representative there from Pilgrim Pipeline; however he had only been with the company for 3 weeks. Riverkeeper gave information regarding this matter and said it would not decrease River or Rail traffic. Councilperson Diane McCord said she talked to the Bruderhoff Community, they are opposed to the pipeline and are concerned for their community since the line potentially will run through their Rifton location.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 9:35 PM WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON KYLE BARNETT AND SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON DIANE MCCORD. ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

**Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk**